

Identifying Persons with Mobility Impairment: Field Test Results

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Need for a Module for People with Mobility Impairment



- **People with mobility impairments (PWMI) generally need more complex services and equipment**
- **Increasingly complex choices about health plan options**

Essential First Step



- **Must develop screening questions to allow PWMI to self-identify**

Key Issues in Developing PWMI Screeners



- **Do we need new screening questions?**
 - Are these questions different from Chronic Condition Screeners?

- **How many questions do we need to ask?**
 - Would asking about equipment alone identify most people?

The Development of Screening Questions



- Initial draft developed by PWMI team
- Cognitive testing by Julie Brown from RAND (n=6) and Patricia Gallagher from Harvard (n=7)
- Questions revised by PWMI and CAHPS teams
- Questions included in a population survey (Biennial MassHealth Member Survey)

Field Test Survey Methods



- **Sample**
 - 1124 adults, aged 18 to 64
 - All covered by a single Medicaid plan in Massachusetts
- **Data collection protocol**
 - **Week 1:** Questionnaire packet mailed to everyone
 - **Week 3:** Reminder postcard mailed to everyone
 - **Week 5:** Second questionnaire mailed to nonrespondents
 - **Week 7:** A minimum of 6 phone calls made to nonrespondents in attempts to complete interview over the phone

Field Test Respondent Demographics



Age		Sex		Ethnicity		Race	
18 to 34	35%	Male	29%	Hispanic	20%	White	63%
35 to 44	25%	Female	71%	Not Hispanic	80%	Black	12%
45 to 54	25%					Asian	12%
55+	15%					Other	8%

Total n = 564

Mobility Impairment and Chronic Condition Screeners



PWMI

- in the past 12 months, used mobility equipment
- in past 12 months, unable to do OR has difficulty/needs assistance to:
 - stand
 - walk ¼ mile
 - climb 10 stairs
 - move around house
 - get out of bed

Chronic Condition

- in the past 12 months has:
 - seen a doctor/health professional 3 or more times for the same condition (excluding pregnancy)
 - this condition has lasted 3+months
- in the past 12 months has:
 - needed to take a medication prescribed by a doctor
 - for a problem lasting 3+ months

Chronic Condition vs. Mobility Impairment

		Mobility Impairment	
		Yes	No
Chronic Health Condition	Yes	185	189 (56%)
	No	31	151
	Total	216	340



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Chronic Conditions vs Mobility Impairment



- Do the chronic condition screening questions identify people with mobility impairment?

NO!

56% of respondents who did not report having mobility impairment screened positive for a chronic health condition.

How many questions – Equipment



- Does information about mobility equipment alone provide sufficient information?

NO!

Of the 218 respondents who report having mobility impairment, 68% say they do not use mobility equipment.

How many questions do we need?

		Any difficulty walking 3 blocks <u>OR</u> uses mobility equipment	
		No	Yes
Any difficulty standing 20 minutes	Yes	10	137
	No	361	56
Any difficulty walking up 10 stairs	Yes	9	149
	No	362	44
Any difficulty getting around the house	Yes	4	130
	No	367	63
Any difficulty getting out of bed	Yes	14	122
	No	357	71



Summary of Key Findings



- Mobility screeners identify a distinct population from the chronic condition screeners
- A question about mobility equipment alone is not sufficient to identify PWMI
- 2 questions (about walking and use of mobility equipment) will identify most PWMI

Future work with PWMI Screeners



- Further analyses of MassHealth data
- Sue Palsbo has included these questions in a large field test in California